

Message Text

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5514

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C O N F I D E N T I A L NEW DELHI 16103

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, HU, IN

SUBJECT: PRIME MINISTER FOCK'S VISIT TO INDIA

1. SUMMARY - THE SIX-DAY VISIT OF HUNGARIAN PRIME MINISTER FOCK TO INDIA YIELDED A JOINT COMMUNIQUE AFFIRMING A "CLOSENESS OR IDENTITY OF VIEWS" ON INTERNATIONAL QUESTIONS AS WELL AS SEVERAL PRESS CONFERENCE REMARKS BY FOCK ON HUNGARIAN-U.S. AND SINO-US RELATIONS. THERE WERE NO SIGNIFICANT ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENTS ANNOUNCED DURING THE VISIT. PRIME MINISTER GANDHI ACCEPTED AN INVITATION TO VISIT BUDAPEST AT AN UNSPECIFIED DATE. END SUMMARY.

2. HUNGARIAN PRIME MINISTER JENO FOCK LED A NINE-MAN DELEGATION (INCLUDING THE MINISTER OF METALLURGY AND DEPUTY MINISTERS OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND TRADE) ON AN OFFICIAL VISIT TO INDIA NOVEMBER 21-26. JUDGING BOTH FROM THE FINAL COMMUNIQUE AND A CONVERSTATION WITH THE HUNGARIAN EMBASSY COUNSELOR (KORMOS) DECEMBER 2, THE VISIT MET BOTH SIDES'S EXPECTATIONS AND A "CLOSENESS OR IDENTITY VIEWS" ON INTERNATIONAL QUESTIONS WAS CONFIRMED. IT WAS ANNOUNCED AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE VISIT THAT MRS. GANDHI HAD ACCEPTED AN INVITATION TO VISIT HUNGARY AT AN UNSPECIFIED TIME.

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3. THE JOINT COMMUNIQUE WAS SILENT ON THE IOZP QUESTION AND INDIA'S MAY 18 NUCLEAR EXPLOSION BUT BORROWED ASIAN SECURITY LANGUAGE ALMOST INTACT FROM THE INDO-SOVIET COMMUNIQUE ISSUED AT THE CONCLUSION OF GENERAL-SECRETARY BREZHNEV'S VISIT TO NEW DELHI A YEAR AGO: "THE TWO PRIME MINISTERS...ATTACHED SPECIAL IMPORTANCE TO THE BROAD DEVELOPMENT OF MUTUALLY ADVANTAGEOUS COOPERATION AND THE CONSOLIDATION OF PEACE AND STABILITY IN ASIA THROUGH COMMON EFFORTS BY ALL THE STATES OF THIS LARGEST AND MOST POPULATED REGION OF THE WORLD." NOT SURPRISINGLY THE HUNGARIAN COUNSELOR EXPRESSED STAISFACTION WITH THE ABOVE FORMULATION, CONFIDING TO US THAT "AS A PRACTICAL MATTER IT IS THE SAME" AS AN INDIAN ENDORSEMENT OF THE SOVIET-EXPLORED COLLECTIVE SECURITY SCHEME. (THE INDIANS WOULD, OF COURSE, DISAGREE.) THE HUNGARIAN EXPLAINED AWAY THE OMISSION OF ANY REFERENCE TO THE INDIAN OCEAN BY SAYING THAT SO FAR AS HE KNOW THE SUBJECT DID NOT COME UP.

4. AT A NOVEMBER 23 PRESS CONFERENCE IN NEW DELHI, PRIME MINISTER FOCK AS ASKED ABOUT THE STATE OF U.S.-HUNGARIAN RELATIONS AND DETENTE IN GENERAL. ON THE FORMER FOCK ONLY COMMENTED THAT THE TWO GOVERNMENTS HAD REACHED AGREEMENT ON SOME TWENTY ISSUES AND TWO WERE NOW OUTSTANDING, MOST-FAVORED NATION TARIFF TREATMENT AND THE RETURN OF THE CROWN OF ST. STEPHEN TO HUMGARY. ON DETENTE FOCK EXPRESSED BOTH A HOPE THAT THE PRC WOULD "JOIN" THE PROCESS AND A "SUSPICION" THAT THE SINO-AMERICAN DETENTE HAS BEEN DEVEIOPED TO "MAKE THE SOVIET UNION GIVE ONE-SIDED CONCESSIONS." WHEN THE HUNGARIAN COUNSELOR WAS ASKED DECEMBER 2 ABOUT FOCK'S STATEMENT IN THIS REGARD, HE MADE AN EMBARRASSED COMMENT TO THE EFFECT THAT FOCK WAS SPEAKING OFF-THE-CUFF SO HIS STATEMENT SHOULD NOT BE TAKEN TOO SERIOUSLY.

5. FOCK'S TALKS ON ECONOMIC TOPICS ADDED LITTLE TO THE RESULTS OF LAST MONTH'S JOINT COMMISSION SESSION IN NEW DELHI (A-436). FOCK DISCUSSED IN A VERY PRELIMINARY AND TENTATIVE FASHION THE POSSIBILITY OF HUNGARIAN ASSISTANCE TO DEVELOP INDIAN BAUXITE DEPOSITS, SAYING INDIA SHOULD TRY TO INTEREST THE OIL PRODUCING COUNTRIES IN SUCH A PROJECT. INDIA TRIED, APPARENTLY WITHOUT SUCCESS, TO OBTAIN AN INCREASE IN THE QUANTITY OF FERTILIZER

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